

CLASSIFICATION

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1. A new political and labor organization named the Union Nacional Ecuatoriana (UNE) has been founded in Guayaquil by Dr. Manuel Arenas Coello, a former Communist leader who broke with the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE) subsequent to his 6 November 1949 defeat in the Guayaquil mayoralty election in which he was the candidate of the Communist front, Alianza Popular Ecuatoriana.\*
2. The basic strength of the UNE lies in the Guayaquil street-cleaners' syndicate of approximately three hundred and fifty members over which Arenas Coello, as the alderman in charge of this municipal work, maintains control. Prior to the break of Arenas Coello with the PCE the majority of the street-cleaners were Communists or of Communist tendencies, but subsequent to this Arenas Coello discharged all Communist members who would not give him their support and who refused to join the UNE.
3. At present the UNE is attempting to gain control of the union of the Guayaquil brewery workers, and there is reason to believe that it may be successful in gaining control of this Communist stronghold.
4. Though the UNE classes itself as being nationalistic and anti-Communist; nevertheless, it is of a markedly leftist tendency which is not surprising since a great number of the members are renegade Communists. Arenas Coello has stated that he hopes to build the UNE into a personal political machine sufficiently strong to enable him to gain the mayoralty of Guayaquil. To strengthen the UNE position and drawing appeal, Arenas Coello is at present attempting to raise sufficient money to purchase a printing press and to found his own newspaper.
5. Arenas Coello's closest collaborators are UNE vice president Alfonso Ramos Marquez de la Plata and secretary V. Eduardo Candel V. Jose Vicente Trujillo, the former Minister of Government, and Eduardo Puig Arosemena, the president of the Chamber of Commerce of Guayaquil, are closely collaborating with Arenas Coello and reportedly helped prepare the program of action of the UNE.

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